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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE:

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SUBJECT Attitude of Czechoslovak Industrialists
and Economists to Trade with Russia

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SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN
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1. The rapprochement with the Soviet Union, which was politically motivated, has not been economically advantageous to Czechoslovak industry. This can be illustrated by the following case: Several months ago the largest Czechoslovak textile combine (Possibly Mautner, National Concern) was able to negotiate a very advantageous sale of approximately 16,000 meters of cotton shirting. The Russians, who learned about the negotiations from Czechoslovak informers, interfered at the last moment and, at their insistence, the dry goods were sent to the Soviet Union. In lieu of cash payment, the Russians paid in raw cotton at the rate of 25% in excess of the weight of the finished Czech product. While the Russian cotton was being processed, it proved to have such short fibers that there was a 25% waste, and Czechoslovak mills suffered a considerable loss.
2. It was said that Czechoslovak industrialists and economists are more and more in favor of resuming relations with the West. Beside the fact that business with Russia is not profitable, the Czechs cannot forego an American loan.
3. It was also believed that fundamental changes, as far as Austrian oil is concerned, would occur after the peace treaties were negotiated. On behalf of the Stalin Works in Most (Brux) negotiations were to have begun, in January, with Austria regarding future deliveries of crude oil. The fact that these negotiations were to be made with Austria, through Soviet officials, was considered to be an indication that Czechoslovakia expects Austrian oil fields to be returned to Austrian control.

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Next Review Date: 2008

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